

ABSTRACT

5 The present invention provides a confocal endoscope,
microscope or endomicroscope including a light source of
coherent light for illuminating a sample, a beam splitter
and light receiving means, wherein an incident beam of
light from the light source is directed onto the beam
splitter and hence onto the sample, and light returning
10 from the sample and incident on the beam splitter is
deviated or displaced by the beam splitter by a small
angle or distance relative to the incident beam, and
received by the light receiving means located to receive
the returning light and near the light source. The
invention also a method for performing confocal endoscopy
15 or microscopy including illuminating a sample by means of
an incident or excitatory beam of coherent light, and
deviating or displacing light returning from the sample by
a small angle or distance relative to the incident beam.

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